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# LONGACRE'S LEDGER

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Vol. 4, No. 4

Fall, 1994

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Official Publication of the  
FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
The "Fly-In Club"

FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT  
COLLECTORS SOCIETY  
*"The Fly-In Club"*  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

## FLYING EAGLE AND INDIAN CENT COLLECTORS SOCIETY

The purpose of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors Society is to promote the study and collection of Longacre's design of small cents.

### OFFICERS

President.....Richard Snow  
Secretary.....Xan Chamberlain  
Treasurer.....Charles Jones  
Publisher/Editor.....Larry R. Steve

### State Representatives

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### ON THE COVER -

#### 1859 Indian Cent

The Indian cent design was first introduced for general circulation in 1859. This date is popular with many kinds of collectors including those who collect Indian cents, Type set collectors, and individuals interested in one year issues, and first year of issues.

(courtesy Larry Steve, photo by Tom Mulvaney)

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER -



Information is the key to the successful collector. Nowhere is this statement more evident than in the Flying Eagle and Indian Cents series. The more information that is gathered and disseminated, the more collectors will benefit. First, by a heightened enjoyment of the coins they have or wish to have. Second, by a more exciting market where coins once

thought to be of little or no interest become very desirable and valuable. There exists now a sense of urgency in many collectors minds to buy the coins now while the picking is good.

With the Fly-In Club and it's journal "Longacre's Ledger", and books like Breen's "Encyclopedia", Fivaz & Stanton's "Cherrypickers' Guide", this author's "Flying Eagle & Indian Cents" to guide collectors in their endeavors, it's no wonder the sector of the hobby devoted to these coins is so strong. Now the latest addition to your library has been announced for release: Larry Steve & Kevin Flynn's "Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Die Varieties".

This newest, and most welcomed addition to the Indian Cent enthusiasts library is subtitled "The F.IND.ERS™ Report", being an extension of Larry's articles in this journal. Listed are the top 100 varieties, with a full page devoted to each coin. Research in the National Archives by Kevin Flynn promise new valuable information.

There can never be too much information published about Indian Cents. I think there is more known about the 1804 Half Cent than is known about the 1872 Indian Cent. Books like the above mentioned can only add to our enjoyment of our favorite coins.

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Fly-In member J.T. Stanton has announced plans to run for the ANA board of Governors in 1995. His commitment to education, financial responsibility, and support of young numismatists make him one of the clearest choices you have ever had to make. If you are a member of the ANA, please vote for J.T. Stanton in 1995. If you are not a member, please call me and I'll sign you up! (my number is on the back page.)

Please have a safe and happy holiday season.

- Rick Snow, President

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## EDITOR'S COMMENT -

Now at the end of the fourth year, our Club continues to do quite well. Our membership stands at 636 strong, and our finances are in a good position to close the year with a small surplus. As we enter 1995, look for some new and exciting developments.

One such development is: after many, many years of research, I have finally been able to complete my book for this series with the help of Kevin Flynn. The book presents 100 of the best varieties in extensive detail. A full page is devoted to each variety, with multiple enlarged photos showing different aspects of the coin. Diagnostic information, such as date position, die cracks and other die markers are listed. In addition, rarity and pricing information is covered *by grade* from Good to MS63. This book should help to more clearly identify each variety and answer some of the questions that have been raised over the years.

There are many surprises in the book as well: quite a few unlisted varieties (some, new doubled dies); a listing of the "Top Twenty Varieties" with full color plate photos; archival documents, letters and other historic papers which should shed some light on questions pertaining to the different lettering styles found on Flying Eagle cents, or other changes in design on Indian cents; and information about the redeeming, melting and/or reissue of copper-nickel and bronze small cents - all of which has been previously unpublished.

The book is scheduled for release in late December, hopefully in time for the FUN Convention held in Orlando. I plan to attend this year, and I hope to meet a few members of the Club.

Remember to continue to submit your articles, news clippings, questions, and Letters to the Editor.

Until the next issue ...

- Larry R. Steve, Editor

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR -

Just wanted to report an interesting fact which I have noted in regard to the 1888/7 die #2 overdate. Back in April of 1994 I cherried an 1888/7 die #2 overdate at a local coin show which ANACS subsequently graded AU-58. The coin displayed all of the die characteristics noted in both Rick's book and the 3rd edition of The Cherrypickers Guide - repunching inside the upper loop's of the 8's, top right point of the 7 very bold inside the upper loop of the last 8, die line at base of 1 extending out the first pearl and a reverse die crack extending vertically from the rim at K-7:00 to approximately the K-9:00 position. Since that discovery I have been avidly searching all of the 88's I come in contact with for the characteristic die markers. However, at the recent East Coast Expo I came across an 1888 in VF with the same reverse die crack but with none of the obverse die characteristics of the overdate. Then, at a very recent antiques show, I cherried an 1888/7 die #2 overdate in VF which has all of the obverse die characteristics, but does not have the reverse die crack. I thought my fellow "hunters" might enjoy this little tidbit of information and it might pay to check all of your 1888 Indian Head cents a little more closely. I and several other members would like to see the 1888/7 die #2 overdate included in the "How Many Are There, Anyway?" column to be able to ascertain its true rarity rating. By the way, my praise and thanks to Jerry Wysong for picking up where Doug Hill left off.

I thoroughly enjoyed the recent East Coast Expo although I was only able to attend for one day. Met and got to chat with Rick (still suffering from jet lag) as well as several other club members, although I did miss meeting Larry. Even managed to cherry an 1880 S-1 DDO which I had been searching for over 2 years. The coin only grades a VF, but after two years of hunting, who cares!!! I also found but passed on an 1870 DDO with DDR in VF and got to see an 1870 Multiple Digits in Denticles in XF which had been cherried by a fellow



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club member. This is probably only the fifth or sixth piece known and was Larry's feature report in the last issue's F.IND.ERS Report. Who says the thrill has gone out of coin collecting? Happy Hunting!

Your FLY-IN friend,

- W. O. Walker  
# F-693

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I just received a letter from Robert E. Guiles, a member from Novato, CA, regarding the article and photos on the differences between the SL and LL 1858 Flying Eagle Cents that appeared in the last issue.

Robert advised me that he noticed the same differences quite awhile ago, and brought them to the attention of the club, but evidently they were not credited to him. I wanted to set the record straight that it was Mr. Guiles, not me, that first discerned these differences. He further advised that Walter Breen was to have given him credit for this, as well as a difference in the "L" on the 1909 and 1909-S issues (I'm not aware of this) in his update of the Encyclopedia.

Just wanted the credit applied to the correct person, and kudos to Robert for having a sharp eye!

- Bill Fivaz  
# F-9

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I've just become a "Fly-In Club" member, #F-910. After reading the Winter 1993-1994 Ledger I want to inform you that I have an 1896 Indian that looks exactly like the 1892 pictured on page 23 with the internal design cud in the same location. It is in XF condition (possibly cleaned). The reverse also shows the clash extending from the C [in CENT] down to the lower leaves (as shown on page 24). Just thought I'd inform you of this variety.

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I also have an 1865 which I thought was a 1865/64 but A.N.A.A.B. sent back and designated it as a repunched date. But they didn't elaborate any further. It is the fancy five with light repunching on the 6, but the 5 looks like it has a chip between the horizontal and the upper loop of the 5. I don't see any exactly the same, similar to Snow S-6. Any other info you can give me I'd appreciate.

P.S. Enjoyed the Ledgers, they're very informative.

- Lee E. McBrien  
# F-910

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS -

### \*\*\* BY-LAWS COMMITTEE \*\*\*

- We are looking to form a By-Laws Committee in order to formalize many of the issues that the Club may need to address. If you have an interest in participating in this important capacity, please contact either Rick or Larry.

### \*\*\* T-SHIRT SALES \*\*\*

- We have a limited number of Club T-shirts still available; price is \$15.00 each. To place your order: specify size and send payment to Editor.

### \*\*\* DEADLINES \*\*\*

- The deadline for articles, advertising and other items of interest for the Winter, 1994-95 issue of the Ledger is December 15, 1994.

IMPORTANT: Please note that all such items to be published, including classified ads, should be mailed directly to the Editor. If you mail them to Xan or Rick, they might not be forwarded in time for inclusion. The address is as follows:

Editor  
Longacre's Ledger  
P.O. Box 291  
Jarrettsville, MD 21084

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## INFORMATION ON STATE REPRESENTATIVES

The names and addresses of our Representatives by State is provided so that our current and prospective members may have a local contact with respect to Club programs and events.

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NOTICE TO STATE REPRESENTATIVES: We are requesting your written permission in order that we may print your address. Please respond. [Editor]

## Proof die identification for Indian Cents

By Richard Snow

Fly-In #1

The identification of dies used in producing Proof issues is important because of the sometimes vast difference in values between them and Business strike issues. In this article I will try to put forward as much information as possible to help identify the proof issues. To properly identify a coin as a genuine proof from a well struck early die state, we must look at general proof characteristics as well as the actual die used to strike the coin.

### **Proof Characteristics.**

Proofs, by definition, are the best coins that The Mint is capable of making in terms of Planchet, Die and Strike. Planchets are specially selected for lack of flaws and imperfections. The dies are, in the case of the coins we are dealing with, new dies with highly polished faces. The proof coins are struck twice at slow speed, typically on the medal press. The finished product should have fully struck squared inner rims and outer edges, full detail in all devices and mirrored fields. The edge should exhibit a somewhat mirrored finish. This is the standard by definition, by practice it's a different story. Over the years The Mint has had quality control that has varied considerably. Some years the coins are flawless works of art, some years they are shoddy examples of mass production.

Problems that are encountered with lazy standards or hurried production are often encountered when examining proofs. Many times during the late 1880's the coins were struck only once in order to meet the production quota. These coins show rounded rims and can sometimes be mistaken for early die state business strikes. Other ailments for certain years are "strike throughs". When grease or oil drips off the machinery onto the die, an indentation is made on the coin where the oil had lain. If a Mint worker sees this and wipes the area with a cloth, pieces of lint will fall between the die and planchet creating tiny swigly indentations on the resulting coin.

Die preparation has also had its shortcoming in various years. Many times to cut costs, The Mint will use a die well past its proof quality stage. When the die is first produced it is finely polished during its soft, unannealed stage. Then it is hardened and put into service. This hardening process crystallizes and shrinks the metal creating a rippled "orange peel" effect in the mirrors. This is the earliest die state for the proof die and coins struck from it are much more desirable than later strikes. In the early years of the 1900's many of the dies were wiped with an abrasive cloth as soon as they were hardened which imparted tiny hairlines on the dies. These look to the casual viewer as hairlines on the coin. When the coin is tilted in the light one way they vanish and the mirrors are full and deep, then upon a slight tilt again the whole coin looks like its been harshly cleaned.

As the die proof die wears against each successive strike, radial flowlines form which impart a cartwheel luster on the coin. While normal for business strikes, cartwheel type luster is indicative of slight die wear. When these are seen by the Mint workers, the dies are taken out and repolished. This time the polishing is done on a

hardened die and imparts a highly polished flat field. Shallow details like the eye socket of the Indian will become flat, sometimes joining the field. Areas of the field near the denticles will become very rounded. After successive wearing and polishing the die gets pretty haggard looking. It may then be taken off the proof press and be put into production of regular issues.

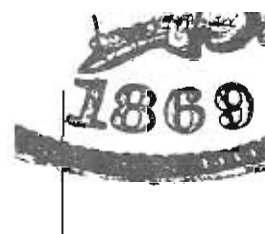
It is useful to also point out what is not normally found on proof issues. Keep in mind that if a coin has any anomaly described here, it is not by itself grounds for ruling out proof status. I always investigate other evidence before discounting the status of any suspected coin. These features should be more warning flags than anything else. Strike doubling, or die chatter is not normal for proofs. Since proofs are struck twice and at slow speeds, the strike doubling would either not occur, or would be obliterated in the second strike. Clashed dies do not occur too often during proof coin manufacture, which is why I record them when they do.

### **Proof dies.**

As I mentioned earlier proof dies can also be used for business strikes. While this is not usual, it does happen. When I know of this happening, I make a note of it and use qualitative analysis in addition to the die data to determine proof status. The identification of proof dies is a very important tool for the numismatist. The following die listing is not meant to be a list for the collector to acquire every die variety. It is used more for identification purposes. *Our objective is to identify the individuality of the die rather than trying to identify something of collector interest.*

Each die has unique aspects that we can make note of to clearly differentiate it from others of the same date. Since dates are punched into the dies by hand (until 1909) we can easily identify obverse dies by date position. In my book I experimented with using distance between the right side of the upright of the "1" and the left tip of the bust point. This BP-1 notation had two failings. First, I did not describe it fully in my book, as my main reason for including the notation was for my own record keeping. Second, It used a millimeter scale, which gets cumbersome to use at shows. Also, I seem to be one of the only numismatist to carry one. The best way to communicate date position is the "Left of 1" method. This notation looks at where the left edge of the foot of the 1 is in relation to the denticles. Simply put, it describes where on the denticles the left edge of the "1" falls. *It is very important that the coin is held where the denticle and left foot of the 1 are at the 6:00 position.*

B = between  
LE = left edge  
LH = left half  
C = center  
RH = right half  
RE = right edge.



*Wrong*



*Correct*



This differs from the way date positions are located in Large Cents in that they are held unrotated. I chose to diverge because of the differing slants in the dates of Indian Cents over the years. For example the date punch for 1872 is small and straight, while 1867 is large and curved. I needed to be consistent within the series and that meant being inconsistent with other series.

Die markers are also useful for die identification. These are die chips, die lines, die scratches, and any other anomaly that is on the die and may transfer to every coin struck from that die. Die markers are useful for both obverse and reverse attributing. It is important to use markers that are protected from additional polishing of the die. It is also important to be sure that the die marker is unique to that die. Only with careful study can die markers be discerned from hub markers. As an example, most proofs from the hub of 1860-1864 (No L, blunt bust point) have incuse cracks around the hollow point to the left of the ear (it developed on the hub in 1861). These are stress cracks on the hub that transferred to every die during that period. It would be useless to use these as die markers.

Attributing the reverse dies are much more difficult. The "Bulging T" reverse die used between 1872 and 1878 shows that reverse dies can and will be used over extended periods. On some of the later years I have noticed that the second olive leaf from the top, near the rim sometimes is joined to the denticles and sometimes is separated. (Ever notice that the wreath is actually Oak and Olive) This difference does not seem to be caused by excessive die polishing, so I have started to make notes on them. This area of study is still needs much work.

All these tools must be used in conjunction with each other. Making a definitive case for proof status on the basis of only one tool, say date position, would be foolhardy. Experience and common sense should be your main tool. It must be kept in mind that the die descriptions may deal with very minute markings.

**This information is by no means complete. If you have additional information please feel free to contact me.**

#### 1859 800

- 1) Obv.: RE. Essentially perfect. Rev.: A die chip in denticle just to the left of 12:00. Seen on business strikes also.
- 2) Obv.: Minute die line in denticles above A<sub>2</sub>. Heavily striated dies.

#### 1860 Type 1

Breen listed this and gave diagnostics. I do not know of any in existence. All purported Type 1 proofs (some certified) have turned out to be proof-like MS pieces or misattributed Type 2's.

#### 1860 Type 2 542

- 1) Obv.: RH. A<sub>3</sub> partly filled. A small diagonal die line between the denticles above the right upright of M<sub>1</sub>.
- 2) Obv.: B. A<sub>3</sub> clear. Slight doubling on top of UNITED. Rev.: Die mound on center of left outline of shield.

#### 1861 400

- 1) Obv.: C. Die file marks in denticles above E<sub>1</sub> & R<sub>1</sub>. Mostly poorly made.
- 2) Obv.: C. Diagonal file marks out of denticles above 2nd & 3rd feather tips. Die file mark out of denticles by A<sub>2</sub>. Usually well made.

#### 1862 550

- 1) LH. A<sub>1</sub> is filled (unpolished center). Rev.: Field between bars in shield unpolished.

#### 1863 460

- 1) Obv.: LH. A<sub>1</sub> & A<sub>3</sub> have unpolished centers. Parallel vertical die lines in front of eye. Small lump below I in LIB. on edge of ribbon.
- 2) J-299. Bronze metallurgical pattern. Obv.: LH. Lower loops of 86 have unpolished centers. A<sub>1</sub> also has an unpolished center. Top knob of 6 is squared off rather than rounded as on regular issue. This may exist on the regular CN metal, but I have not seen any.

#### 1864 CN 370

- 1) Obv.: RE. Date high, almost touching bust point. Minute die dot below the right pennant of T<sub>2</sub>. All "A"s have unpolished centers. While the date has no unpolished centers. Rev.: Small diagonal die file mark at base of "T". Dies rotated slightly on some.
- 2) See 1864 No L #3.

#### 1864 No L 150

- 1) Obv.: RE. Same die as 1864 CN #1. Note die dot at T<sub>1</sub>.
- 2) Obv.: B. Unpolished centers in the date, as well as A<sub>3</sub> only. Many light nearly horizontal die lines on Indians neck.
- 3) Obv.: RH. Date high, almost touching the bust point. "A"s filled, as well as the 6 (on all?). Unfinished die with circular pantograph lines around the center of the coin. Fields are heavily striated. Rev.: Heavily striated die. Sometimes with slightly rotated dies. Most all of the metallurgical patterns J-353 - J-356 are from this die pair, although some get certified as 1864 CN or 1864 No L.

#### 1864 With L 20

- 1) Obv.: B. A long raised die line running diagonally from NE to SW just under the jaw of the Indian. Date is far to the right of the bust point. Rev. Numerous light crisscrossing die lines in field.
- 2) Obv. The date position is much farther left than die #1. The i being directly under the bust point. The obverse die is polished somewhat unevenly, with more space between the denticles at 3:00 and 9:00 than at 12:00 and 6:00. Most are probably the copper die trail J-357.

#### 1865 Plain 5 500

- 1) Obv.: C. 18 is low, 65 is higher. There is a light diagonal die line just left of the eye. The spur on the top loop of the 8 is missing. This spur is present on all other known plain 5 dies.
- 2) Obv.: B. A diamond shaped die chip extends from the lower ribbon into the neck. 1 slightly repunched (n).

#### 1866 725

- 1) Obv.: B. Cheek, jaw and neck heavily pockmarked, this is caused by die rust. This should not affect the grading of this date. The obverse die is concave giving the coin a convex dishd look.

#### 1867 625

- 1) Obv.: LE. Small die chip in hair above ear. A long thin die scratch from 2nd diamond from bottom into neck. This die scratch could easily be mistaken for a scratch and should not affect the grading of this date. There is a defect on I<sub>1</sub> which causes it to bulge out more than any other letters. Rev.: Die file mark at 6:00.

#### 1868 600

- 1) Obv.: B. Die dot on neck midway from ear to ribbon. About 50% of these have dies rotated 360 deg. (180 deg. from the normal coin turn).

#### 1869 600

- 1) Obv.: RE. 1869/9 (n). Slight repunching. About 5% of these have dies rotated. 360 deg.
- 2) Obv.: RE. There is a die line on the temple area of the forehead pointing to "B" in LIB & eye.

#### 1870 1000

- 1) Obv.: Triple punched 8. Rev.: Type 3 (strong N in ONE).
- 2) Obv. LE. A few scattered die lines on neck by the pearls. Rev.: Type 1 (Shallow N in ONE). Many random die lines.



1871 960

- 1) Obv.: LE. 71 apart. Numerous light random die lines. Rev.: Type 1. (shallow N) Numerous light die lines. Same die as 1870 #2.  
2) Obv.: RH. 71 about touch. Rev.: Type 1. Numerous light die lines. Same die as #1, later die state.  
3) Obv.: B. 71 about touch. Same die as #2. Rev.: Type 3 (bold N).

1872 950

- 1) Obv.: RH. Die scratch on the headband after the Y in LIB. Die rust lumps on neck. Rev.: A defective die with a bulging right pennant on the T in CENT. A diagonal die line from N to E in ONE.

1873 Closed 3. 1100

- 1) Obv.: B. 18 touch. Broken D. This broken D feature is caused by hub deterioration. Vertical die line from top of F<sub>1</sub>. Numerous die lines below date. Rev.: Same die as 1872 #1 with bulging T and light die line connecting N & E.

1874 700

- 1) Obv.: B. Defective digit punch which looks like 1874/4 (s). Broken D hub. Rev.: Same die as 1873 with bulging T and light die line between N & E.

1875 700

- 1) Obv.: RE. Die line in denticles below 8. Rev.: Same die as 1874 #1 with bulging T and die line between N & T.  
2) Obv.: LH. 18/1875 (s) major doubling on 1, minor on 8. This obverse has been seen on business strikes not paired with this reverse though. Rev.: Same die as #1 with bulging T.  
3) Obv.: LE. 1875/5 (n). Die file marks below ear. Small die rust mound to the right of the mouth. A different hub with unbroken D. Detail of this hub is very much less sharper than previous. Feather veins, LIBERTY, hair strands and diamonds are all more rounded. This is probably an old (undated) die put into service as a master die. Rev.: Type 3 (bold N) die without the bulging T.

1876 1150

- 1) Obv.: LH. Die chip on neck just below jaw. Rev.: Same die as 1875 #2 with bulging T and die line between N & T.  
2) Obv.: Die chip in hair behind eye. Light horizontal die line in hair above ear. Rev.: Type 3 (bold N no bulging T). Small die chip on N in CENT.  
3) Obv.: C. Die chip on jaw. Rev.: Same die as #2 repolished. Many parallel die striations. Many are confused with and offered as Mint States. In fact this die pair has not been seen with the quality expected with proofs.

1877 900

- 1) Obv.: B. 77 spaced fairly close. Small lumps (die rust) on the first 7 and on the neck. Rev. Type 3 (Bold N, normal T).  
2) Obv.: LH. Date equally spaced. Rev.: Same die as 1876 #1 with bulging T, but now repolished. Diagonal die line from top of C to base of O. Some leaves merge into field.

1878 2350

- 1) Obv.: LH. Small die dot above headband between ER. Rev.: Type 3 (Bold N, normal T).  
2) Obv.: LH. Small die dot on the front of the neck midway between the jaw and pearls, another between the legs of R<sub>1</sub>. Another dot just left of the ear lobe. Rev.: Type 3 (Bold N, normal T). Die lump on upper right corner of "E"NT.  
3) Obv.: RH. Small die dot below headband in hair below ER. Rev.: Same die as 1877 #2 with bulging T, its last usage. The latest die state shows many leaves partially effaced from over polishing.

1879 3000

- 1) Obv.: C. 8/8, 9/9 (e,e). Digit punch defect on base of 1. Rev.: Type 3, as are all that follow. This die was also used to strike business strikes.

1880 3955

- 1) Obv.: C. Broken 8's.  
2) Obv.: B. 1/1 (s). Rev.: Olive leaf connected to denticles.

1881 3575

- 1) Obv.: B. A defective digit punch was used which gives the appearance of a repunched date at the base of the 1's. A minute die dot just below A<sub>3</sub>.  
2) Obv.: 1881/1 Last 1 repunched.

1882 3100

- 1) Obv.: B. A small die line is visible above the 5th. pearl.

1883 6609

- 1) Obv.: LE. 1883/3 (n). Very minor repunching visible at the top of 3. Rev.: Olive leaf away from rim.  
2) Obv.: RH.  
3) Obv.: B. Small die dot in ear. Light raised die line on cheek. Rev.: Olive leaf connected to denticles, though some show slight separation due to die polishing.

1884 3942

- 1) Obv.: RE. 8/8. Possibly also used on business strikes.  
2) Obv.: C. Die polishing lines from the hair and ribbon into the neck. Rev.: E's are closed.  
3) Obv.: Rev.: E's are open due to overpolishing of the dies. (same die as above?)

1885 3790

- 1) Obv.: B. 8/8, 5/5 (nw.s). 1 directly under bust point.  
2) Obv.: B. Date farther right than #1. Die lines to right of eye into hair. Rev.: Doubled die reverse. Minor doubling on veins in right wreath. Double points on lowest arrowhead. Second olive leaf away from denticles.  
3) Obv.: RE. Minute die lump between jaw and neck. Date farther right than #1. Rev.: Second olive leaf away from denticles.

1886 Type 1 2500 of 4290

- 1) Obv.: B. 6/6 (s). Light repunching visible in the loops of the 6.  
2) Obv.: C. 6/6 (n). Light repunching just above the lower loop. 1 is directly under bust point. Die scratch from hair diagonally through eye and nose. Rev.: Minute die lump on center of T, also one on the upper portion of C in CENT.

1886 Type 2 1800 of 4290

- 1) Obv.: B. 1/1, 8/8 (s). Light repunching visible below serif of 1 and upper loop of second 8.  
2) Obv.: 1/1, 86/86 (s). Minor repunching.  
3) Obv.: C. 1/1 (n). Minor repunching visible at the top of 1. Rev.: Olive leaf away from denticles.

1887 2960

- 1) Obv.: B.

1888 4582

- 1) Obv.: LH. 1/1 (s). Very minor repunching. Die chip in denticles below right edge of 1.  
2) Obv.: LH. No repunching visible.  
3) Obv.: RH. Die lines by denticles above C<sub>1</sub>.

1889 3336

- 1) Obv.: RH. Clash mark visible from the C on reverse in field to left of eye and nose. Rev.: Clash mark from the nose visible through C. Second olive leaf connected to rim.

1890 2740

- 1) Obv.: LE.  
2) Obv.: C.

1891 2350

- 1) Obv.: 89/89 (s). Light repunching visible in the upper loop of the 8 and the lower loop of the 9.  
2) Obv.: B. Clashed dies on most.  
3) Obv.: LH. Lower loop of 9 partly filled. There are a few depressions on cheek.

1892 2745

- 1) Obv.: RE. 1/1 (s). Slight repunching. Rev.: Olive leaf away from denticles.
- 2) Obv.: C. Die lump on E<sub>3</sub>. Rev.: Second olive leaf connected to rim. Closed E's.
- 3) Obv.: RH. Left edge of 2: B. Rev.: Second olive leaf separated from denticles.

1893 2195

- 1) Obv.: B. Top loop of 3 partly unpolished.

1894 2632

- 1) Obv.: RE.
- 2) Obv.: RH. Microscopic repunching on top serif of 1 (s). Rev.: Second olive wreath is away from rim.

1895 2062

- 1) Obv.: LE. 895/895 (e). Widely repunched date.
- 2) Obv.: B. Small horizontal die line left of ear. Die line in denticles below 95.
- 3) Obv.: C.
- 4) Obv.: LE. Rev.: Second olive leaf connected to denticles.

1896 1862

- 1) Obv.: LH. A small diagonal die line in the upper loop of the 6. Possibly a repunched date 6/6 (s). Rev.: Second olive wreath is away from rim.
- 2) Obv.: RH. Lumps on 6, possibly transferred from punch.
- 3) Obv.: C. Light horizontal die line through pearls. Rev.: Second olive leaf is almost connected to denticles.
- 4) Obv.: LH. Die line in denticles below 6. Rev.: Second olive leaf connected to denticles.

1897 1938

- 1)

1898 1795

- 1) Obv.: RH. Last 8 partially filled.

1899 2031

- 1) Obv.: RE. Die lumps on 899, possibly the result of a rusted digit punch.
- 2) Obv.: C.

1900 2262

- 1) Obv.: RE. 19/19 (s). Minor repunching.
- 2) Obv.: B. Minute die dot over 4th pearl.

1901 1985

- 1) Obv.: C. 90/90 (e). Light repunching visible at the base of 90.
- 2) Obv.: RE. 01/01 (s). Slight repunching at base of 01. Early die states seen with wipe lines. Rev.: Second olive leaf away from denticles.
- 3) Obv.: B. Die line in denticles at 12:00. Rev.: Second olive leaf away from denticles.
- 4) Obv.: C. 1/1 (s). Slight repunching visible at base of 1. Rev.: Second olive leaf connected to denticles.

1902 2018

- 1) Obv.: RE. 2/2 (s). Minor repunching visible at base of 2. Early die states seen with wipe lines.
- 2) Obv.: RE. Early die states seen with wipe lines.

1903 1790

- 1) Obv.: C. 3/3 (n). Traces of repunching visible in lower loop. Early die states seen with wipe lines. Usually with weak feather tips.

1904 1817

- 1) Obv.: C. Remnant of 9 in denticles below 9. Early die states seen with wipe lines.

1905 2152

- 1) Obv.: B. Die line out of denticles above F in OF. Early die states seen with wipe lines.

1906 1725

- 1) Obv.: B.

1907 1475

- 1) Obv.: C. Die lumps on lower half of 1. Rev.: Olive leaf away from denticles. Center arrow points to a die line in denticles at 4:00. Early die states seen with wipe lines.

1908 1620

- 1) Obv.: C. 19/19 (s). Very minor repunching visible mostly in the upper loop of 9, top serif of 1 and base of 1.
- 2) Obv.: B. Early die states show die lines in denticles below the 1. These may not be visible on late die states.

1909 2175

New hub this year, L on ribbon modified, dated hub. No positional variety.

- 1) Obv.: RE. Minute die lump on denticle below edge of 1.

In summary, let me reiterate some of the reasons for the compilation of this list.

This is a proof die list, not a variety guide. I should once again point out that these minute die descriptions are necessary only to identify dies without the aid of a physical specimen. I don't want you to think that the typical variety collector is anyway interested in such minor die differences. Yes, some may want to gather an example of every die for the proof issues - a challenge, but not an impossibility. This list, and the future final list will be of some aid to those collectors.

I find the independent grading services sometimes floundering on the "Is it a proof or PL first strike?" question many times in the past. This list will help those having trouble identifying proof from non-proofs.

Finally, The reason I am publishing an unfinished list is that I hope the Fly-In Club members can help plug any holes left open by me here. I have not, and will not see every example. I estimate that the list is 75% complete. If you see something which is omitted please let me know.

Rick Snow  
Fly-In #1

## A NEW 1 IN NECKLACE ?

by W. O. Walker

As an avid Indian Head cent collector and variety hunter, I have spent many an enjoyable hour pouring over dealers' stock at local coin shows.

One of the more interesting varieties I've come upon is an 1882 with what appears to be the base of a 1 punched between the fourth and fifth pearl of the necklace, very similar to the 1866 S-1.

Although the Indian Head cent series has a number of widely misplaced 1's (the '65 pln 5 S-2, '66 S-1, '83 S-1, '88 S-2 and '97 S-1), this discovery could constitute a new variety.

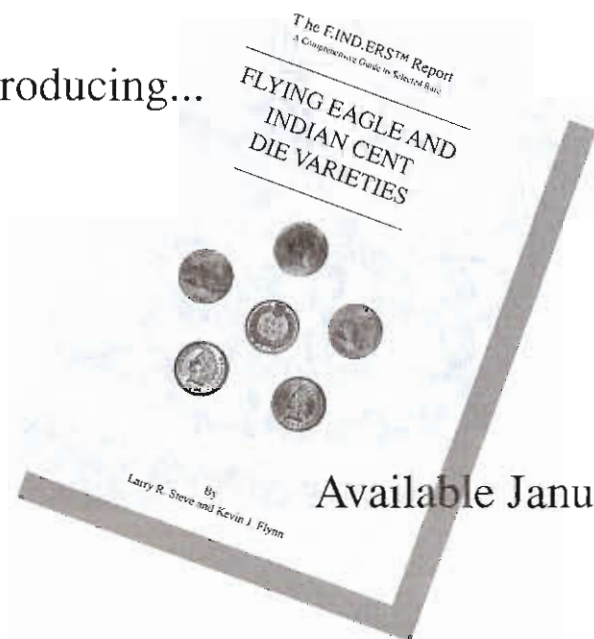
I submitted the coin to Chris Pilliod for photography and attribution, but as the coin is only a VF with some minor damage in the area of the necklace, he is holding off until he sees a higher grade example.

I'd be curious if any other examples of this variety are out there in members' collections or stock such that it can be properly attributed.

Keep looking and happy hunting!



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## AN INVESTIGATION OF DIE LIFE

by Chris Pilliod

One question that eventually strikes the avid collector is why some varieties are much more difficult to locate than others. Anyone that has searched earnestly for varieties in any series have undoubtedly come up with the same conclusion. Some insight to possible answers can be found in study of the 1869 Snow-1 variety. A photo of this repunched date is shown, with a strong repunching noted on the "1" and "8".

This variety is by far the most desirable of the 1869 varieties, and deserves it's listing as the first variety. It is also a very elusive piece, difficult to locate in any grade. No known uncirculated grades exist, with the highest grade I have seen being a choice VF. Why? Especially why when one considers the overwhelming availability of other 1869 varieties, including the so-called "1869/8" which are actually 1869/1869 (Snow's #3 and #4). All else being equal, these varieties should be similarly available. But they are not nearly equal, with Snow #1 being at least 20 times rarer. This goes beyond random statistically variation. Let's explore some possibilities as to why.

One theory that is popularly held is that shortly after coinage begins, a mint inspector detects the variety and discards the die as defective. I don't ascribe to this theory. There are a multitude of strong varieties that are readily detectable that are abundant. These would include the 1867/67 S-1, 1873 C1 3 doubled die var. 1, the 1894/1894 S-1, and the list goes on.

Recently, Dave Brody, a fellow Fly-In member and variety enthusiast, uncovered a nice VF piece and upon review it displayed a very heavy die break in the date area. This immediately turned the numismatic wheels of my mind. This gave me an answer to why the 1869 S-1 is so evasive.

The late die state of Brody's piece is very close to becoming a full die break. Shortly after this piece was struck the piece had to break. Being on the obverse, the piece would have broken away completely and formed a full cud. This is because the obverse is the hammer die and as a result any broken die piece quickly becomes a full cud, rather than retained cud, as is often seen on Indian cent reverses. The reverse of the Indian cent die rested in the anvil position surrounded by a collar. The collar allowed any broken die piece to remain in position.

Now the Mint gets picky when any micro-sized defects detected. My feeling is that operations are stopped and the die is discarded when a defect the size of a cud is detected. This would lead to a premature end to a die, not allowing a "full run" production to occur.

This is likely what transpired with the 1869 Snow-1 variety. Not only is the late die state of Brody's piece about to become a full cud, it is also located in the date area. A cud would take away the date, which, in turn would really alarm the mint inspector. Another point needs to be made regarding the late die state. One might propose that this die aged normally, that is, it formed a light die crack which grew and eventually formed a die break. Possibly, but in this case the die break seems to have formed catastrophically, in a sudden and a brittle fashion; similar to sledge-hammering an ice block. There is no evidence of any light die crack in the earlier strike that would suggest metal fatigue.

Soon after this late die state piece was struck the piece would have broken and subsequently fallen out. At this time any piece noticed with the large cud would have been cause for immediate retiring of the die at a premature age. What caused the die to fail abruptly can only be speculated. Possibly a heavy die clash, or other striking malfunction.

Other causes for premature retiring of the die would include the following:

1. Mintage requirement met. If the specified number of pieces are met for a given denomination run, the dies in use would be retired.
2. Denominational changeover. During the Indian cent series it was likely the same coin presses were used for several different denominations. If a sudden demand for a different denomination occurs, then any dies in use may be retired prematurely.
3. Short run demands. If a sudden need for a small quantity of a particular denomination is required, a new die may be employed for the limited strikes needed. This may also have occurred after the year-end accounting has uncovered a negative balance.



## WHY COLLECT VARIETIES? - ADDENDUM

by Larry R. Steve

Invariably, when speaking of die varieties, the question arises as to "How much is it worth?". This is much more difficult to answer than the question "How rare is it?".

Before this issue can be addressed, there are some additional principles to consider:

"If there is no interest in a given variety, then the coin is worth no more than its non-variety counterpart."

That is to say interest, or demand, plays a large part in determining the value of a variety. In essence, it is part of the classic equation of supply and demand. However, in some cases a variety may be known to exist in only a few specimens, and yet its price may only be that of a comparable piece which is not a variety.

Why is this?

Some pieces may simply not be as exciting to the average collector. A slight variation in a coin may be hardly noticeable, except under higher magnification. Usually it is the specialist, or someone engaged in research who may take an interest in these minor differences, which brings us to the second principle:

"The collector of rare die varieties may actually be *rarer* than the coins themselves."

The varieties that usually capture the hearts and minds of many collectors are those that are quite dramatic. A distinct doubled die, such as the 1873 Closed 3 Doubled Die Obverse Die 1, or a widely repunched date, such as the 1894/1894, are coins that are better known and much more sought after. Generally speaking, a 10x power loupe should be sufficient to look for varieties. If it is clearly visible at that magnification, then it may be worth adding to your collection.

But the "call of the wild" may lure you into thinking that the coin is worth many times more than what it may actually be, or you may simply get caught up in the excitement. The hype and promotion can at times be quite enticing.

Another principal to remember is:

"The more dramatic, significant, or prominent the variety, the more likely it will generate greater interest."

Over the years I have developed a personal set of guidelines that I live by. The two previously mentioned coins, along with the 1858/7 Flying Eagle cent, are in my opinion the most dramatic, best representative example of their respective category, and have a documented price performance record indicative of the interest level each commands. We may, perhaps, be able to better gauge the rarity for each of these particular varieties, since more collectors have been searching for them over a longer period of time. I use this information as a benchmark in my quest for other varieties - sort of a path cut through the thickets.

Now, if I consider these to be the best, then most other varieties must be less dramatic and with less certainty as to its interest or rarity. It stands to reason that for new discoveries, at least initially, the value for such pieces should also be relatively less. There are always, however, some exceptions such as the 1857 \$20 clashed obverse. As collecting interests for this series mature, certain varieties may emerge as truly rare and desirable pieces. Price levels would then be established over time.

If some of these known "benchmark" varieties trade at levels of 10 or 20 times the price levels of their non-variety counterpart (or at whatever level), then I would question price levels of 200, 300, 400 times or more for some new discovery piece. The risks can prove to be costly and caution should be exercised. Patience, a little common sense, and acting without emotion can go a long way in making wise purchasing decisions.



Of course we all make mistakes from time to time. But if we continue in our search, we can minimize our mistakes; and occasionally we may just come across that certain piece that makes it all worthwhile.

Some final tips on collecting styles for varieties:

One could collect by just a single kind of variety, such as doubled dies and only doubled dies, or just misplaced dates. In doing so, one can develop their skills to a respectable level of comfort and expertise. These skills would then enable one to cross over into different dates, and even different series, to look for new discoveries of this particular category.

Another technique is to collect a single date, looking for all the many varieties that may exist for that year. This would familiarize one with the different categories of varieties. The 1870 Indian cent is a good year to study, or perhaps the 1857 Flying Eagle cent. Both of these contain many different kinds of varieties. Collecting by date would also be an approach to better assess the rarity of a specific variety. In addition, chances of discovering a new variety would be excellent.

There are many collectors who have adopted either of these styles. Some of the more notable variety specialists have advanced to the level of collecting all kinds of varieties for all series. They are, perhaps, the ultimate "cherrypicker".

Above all else, enjoy whatever style of collecting you may have chosen - be it by variety or not.

## LATE DATE INDIAN CENT VARIETIES 1886 - 1899

by Douglas W. Hill

Many of you know that I started and maintained the die variety census in "Longacre's Ledger" under the title "How Many Are There, Anyway?" from 1991 to early 1994. I am delighted that Jerry Wysong has agreed to continue that census and I hope that club members will enthusiastically support his efforts in the same way that they did mine.

I think that Jerry will find that he has a lot of hard work ahead of him, but that it will in most cases be very rewarding. My only frustration with the census is that it is limited to doubled dies, repunched dates / overdates, and clashed dies. Undoubtedly there are very rare die marriages out there which do not fit in the above categories and which are going undiscovered. In fact, it's likely that the doubled dies and repunched dates are barely scratching the surface of all die varieties whether rare or common.

Having said that, I plan to make this a continuous column which will ultimately form the nucleus of a research project and a book. I chose the dates 1886 - 1899 because they are common and hence readily accessible to all collectors. Also, as many of you know, Charles Barber redesigned the obverse master hub in 1886 which serves for me as a starting point. In fact, I am only interested in the redesigned hub for 1886 which is known as the Type 2 and which shows the last feather between the C and A in America. I decided to terminate my research with the year 1899 because after that the mintage figures and hence the die marriages increase significantly.

In regard to identifying specific die marriages, I will borrow from the methodology used by Bob Grellman in his book Attribution Guide For United States Large Cents 1840-1857. Those of you in the Early American Coppers Club will notice that my line drawings closely resemble Bob's - and they should since they were done with his advise. The drawings will show any significant die markers which may include die scratches, die cracks,



clashed dies, and most importantly lapping lines. Lapping lines, or die polishing lines, are the residual effects of an attempt to improve a die's surface usually with a file or a wire brush.

I realize that looking for small lapping lines especially after collecting doubled dies and repunched dates may at first glance seem insignificant and even boring. In fact, similar objections were made to Howard Newcomb when he began attributing his late date large cents. Eventually, however, the initial skepticism died down when collectors learned where to look for the significant die markers. Also, the thought of finding a significant rarity for \$5 or \$10 didn't hurt either.

Each time I will present two new varieties which I feel have the potential of being rare. In most cases, these will be early die state examples with some form of die stress (cracks, cuds, etc.) which may have caused the removal of a die after the minting of only a few coins. Every die marker in my drawings can be seen with a 10x loupe. Also, I am starting an attribution service for any coin between 1886 Type 2 and 1899 which is detailed in the classified ads under "Wanted to Buy". The owners of newly discovered varieties will be mentioned in my book.

The first thing I look for is the date placement. Each variety will probably have a somewhat different date placement since the date was punched into each working die using a 4 digit logo punch. I have created a numerical date placement systems which is easy to learn but which takes up too much space to explain here. Suffice it to say that for the 1887 H-3 the edge of the serif of the 1 is just to the right of the bust point.

The first thing that you will notice on the obverse are the extensive die cracks throughout the legend which are heaviest on UNITED STATES. Then look for the heavy nearly horizontal lapping line between the curl point and the hair above the ear. If you have the H-3 obverse this lapping line will jump out at you. Finally, there is a weaker lapping line to the southeast in the middle curl between the ear and the ribbon.

The reverse die is also extensively cracked. The first thing is to locate though is the die scratch from the top of the shield which connects to a lump just below the dentils. Also there is a curved die scratch between two dentils opposite the upper part of the leaf to the left side of the O in ONE. Both the obverse and reverse dies are early die states on my example of the H-3.



The edge of the serif of the 1 is farther to the right of the bust point than in the 1887 H-3. If you like to measure, it is .5mm to the right of the bust point. The first things that you will notice on my example are the rim break over STATES and the light die crack through the bottom of the date. There are 3 horizontal lapping lines between the curl point and the hair above the ear. There are vertical lapping lines below the ear and points to the southwest below the L and feather 9. On the reverse there is a lump above the C in CENT and two points to the southwest in the shield between stripes 5 and 6. The obverse die of my coin is an early die state while the reverse die is a mid die state.

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## HOW MANY ARE THERE, ANYWAY?

by Jerry Wysong

The number of Flying Eagle/Indian Head Cent varieties reported over the past summer months have been few. Those varieties reported to me are listed below; and as you can see, there are several barn burners.

- A. 1857 \$20 Clashed Die Obverse;
  - 1. AU-58 (ANACS Cache)
  - 2. EF-40
  - 3. VF-30
- B. 1857 50c Clashed Die Obverse;
  - 1. MS-65 (PCGS Cache)
  - 2. VF-20
  - 3. Fine; 2 pieces
- C. 1873 D.D. Obv. (S-1); VG-10
- D. 1891 D.D. Obv. (S-1); MS-64 Red (ANACS Cache)

You may wonder why or how so many 1857 \$20 Clashed Die Obv. pieces have suddenly been found; increasing the total from 6 to 9 recorded pieces for this variety. Actually; two of the pieces were found in January and not reported/recorded until now. The third is a recent discovery. Still, this is a significant increase (50%) for this rare variety. I'm told that the AU-58 piece was acquired by Rick Snow at the FUN Show and subsequently acquired by Larry Steve. The EF and VF pieces were both cherry picked at shows. The VF-30 piece is a net grade because of light corrosion, and is actually a nice EF in overall detail.

Please note that I have added the 1857/857 (S-11) to the Table of Repunched Date varieties for the census information. I know that this is a very difficult variety to find and is probably unrecognizable in less than a VF-20 grade because the wear on the coin eradicates the traces of the repunched date. The two pieces listed are from my own collection and have been authenticated by Chris Pilliod.

It has been suggested that a new category or group be added to the census information. This category would be Misplaced Date varieties and would include such varieties as the 1870 S-5, the 1897 (1 in Neck) S-1, and the 1888 (1 in Neck) reported in the Winter issue of Longacre's Ledger. Please let me know your feeling on this proposal; if you want it; we'll do it.

#### DOUBLED DIE TABLE

		G-VG	F	VF	XF	AU	*** Mint 60-62	63	State 64	*** 65	Total
1864	DDO BZ		0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	3
1865	1-R-IV	S-2	5	0	3	1	2	2	1	0	16
1866	1-O-V	S-1	1	3	8	6	3	2	1	2	26
1868	1-O-III	S-1	0	0	2	4	3	1	4	2	16
1870	1-O-IV(3)	S-1	0	0	2	7	5	6	4	7	31
1870	2-O-IV	S-3	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	4
1870	3-O-IV	S-5	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
1873	1-O-III	S-1	30	16	15	14	15	6	2	2	101
1873	2-O-III	S-2	0	1	4	9	10	7	6	3	41
1874	DDO, EDS	S-1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4
1880	1-O-IV	S-1	0	0	2	0	2	1	4	2	13
1887	1-O-V	S-1	21	9	4	5	1	0	1	1	42
1889	1-R-III	S-1	1	1	2	4	1	1	1	1	13
1890	1-O-II(3)	S-1	0	2	0	0	2	1	2	1	9
1891	1-O-IV	S-1	5	1	4	3	5	1	1	1	21

#### REPUNCHED DATE TABLE

		G-VG	F	VF	XF	AU	*** Mint	State	***	Total	
							60-62	63	64	65	
1857/857	S-11	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
1858/7 E.D.S.	S-1	1	1	10	9	12	3	2	5	0	43
1859/1859	S-1	4	1	0	3	5	1	0	1	0	15
1865/4 Fancy	S-1	3	0	0	2	3	0	1	1	0	10
1865/4 Plain	S-1	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	5	1	9
1866/1	S-3	1	2	3	0	1	2	1	2	1	13
1867/67	S-1	22	6	12	6	3	5	5	12	5	76
1869/18	S-1	3	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
1872/182	S-1	1	1	3	2	0	2	1	4	1	15
1888/7 die #1	S-1	4	1	2	1	0	2	1	0	1	12
1891/1891	S-3	7	2	6	3	5	2	5	5	0	35
1894/1894	S-1	57	6	9	7	3	3	6	6	4	101
1897 1 in neck	S-1	21	13	7	11	1	2	3	0	0	58

#### CLASHED DIE TABLE

					*** Mint State ***						
		G-VG	F	VF	XF	AU	60-62	63	64	65	Total
1857 \$20	Obv. S-7	3	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	9
1857 25c	Rev. S-8	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	0	0	10
1857 50c	Obv. S-9	4	2	5	0	1	1	0	1	1	15

Contributor's to this article are Larry Steve and Rick Snow. Please write to me;

Jerry Wysong  
P.O. Box 292561  
Dayton, Ohio 45429

if you have any information concerning the varieties covered in this article. I can also be reached at (513) 436-1448 if you need to contact me by phone. My machine will take your message if I'm not there.

Again; I would like to conclude by saying that the census is yours, the members of the Fly-In Club, and I am open to any and all suggestions for improvement.

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## THE F.IND.ERS™ REPORT

by Larry R. Steve

There are several areas of interest to many collectors. Some, such as myself, concentrate on die varieties; while others examine their coins looking for clashed dies, die chips, cracks and cuds, or rotated dies to list but a few. There are, however, differences between these various aspects of interest.

Die varieties include such areas as doubled dies, repunched dates, overdates, misplaced dates and repunched mintmarks. Generally speaking, these types of varieties occur during the die making process, and once made and put into use, each and every coin that is minted from a pair of dies will show the die's unique characteristics to some degree.

Clashed dies, cracks, etc. usually occur during the die usage period. These types of characteristics appear at some point during the life of a die. It is important to note that each and every coin produced from a particular pair of dies may not display such features.

For example, an obverse die initially may not have any die cracks, thus the coins first minted are absent any such feature. Sometime during the minting process, stress on the die may cause it to crack. If the die continues in use, then only those coins minted after the crack first appeared will show evidence of this occurrence. The crack may become progressively worse with increasing evidence appearing on the coins. Finally, the die may be removed from the press.

These types of features are sometimes referred to as a "die state" or "die stage", rather than as a "die variety". Again, a die variety will appear to some degree on every coin produced, whereas a die state appears on those coins minted later in the run.

This month's Feature Report is of an interesting piece that I happen to come across in my collection. It's an 1889 double misaligned clashed reverse.

## FEATURE REPORT: 1889 Double Misaligned Clashed Reverse

The 1880 Doubled Die Obverse S-1 (not shown) is, perhaps, better known for its distinctive misaligned clashed reverse. Although clashed dies with a normal alignment is a fairly common occurrence throughout the entire series, misaligned clashed dies occur much less frequently.

The 1889 shown here displays evidence of the dies having clashed while misaligned in two different positions! Denticles from the stronger clash show through the O of ONE, with the second lighter clash showing up in the space between the N and E of ONE.



(Photo by Chris Pilliod)



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1875 BR-1991 F-12 \$75; 1883 BR-2003 XF-45 \$275; 1887 DDO AU-58 \$995; 1899/899 unlisted by Snow, MS-64 RD \$125, 1907 BR-2047 VF-30 \$99, STATE YOUR NEEDS. Henry T. Hettger, P.O. Box 2018, Arlington, VA 22202.

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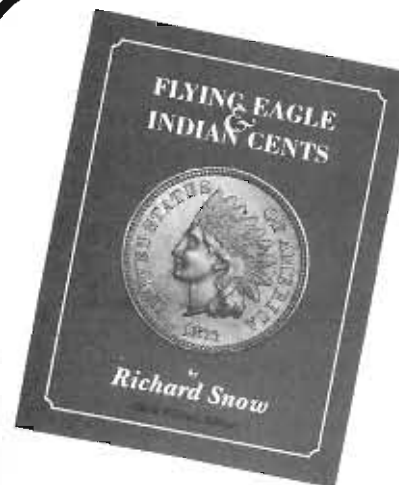
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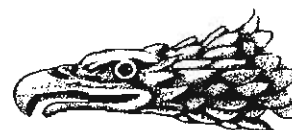
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